

Senate Bill 246

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SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires that certain public or private officials report suspected animal abuse.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to reporting of animal abuse; amending ORS 686.450, 686.455 and 686.465.

3 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

4 **SECTION 1.** ORS 686.450 is amended to read:

5 686.450. As used in ORS 686.450 to 686.465 and 686.990 (3):

6 (1)(a) "Aggravated animal abuse" means any animal abuse as described in ORS 167.322.

7 (b) "Aggravated animal abuse" does not include:

8 (A) Good animal husbandry, as defined in ORS 167.310; or

9 (B) Any exemption listed in ORS 167.335.

10 (2) "Law enforcement agency" means:

11 (a) Any city or municipal police department.

12 (b) Any county sheriff's office.

13 (c) The Oregon State Police.

14 (d) A law enforcement division of a humane society in Oregon that employs special agents au-
15 thorized under ORS 131.805.

16 (e) A law enforcement division of a county or municipal animal control agency that employs
17 sworn officers.

18 **(3) "Public or private official" has the meaning given that term in ORS 419B.005.**

19 [(3)] **(4) "Veterinarian" means a person licensed to practice veterinary medicine under ORS**
20 **chapter 686.**

21 **SECTION 2.** ORS 686.455 is amended to read:

22 686.455. (1) A veterinarian **or public or private official** who has reasonable cause to believe
23 that an animal with which the veterinarian **or public or private official** has come in contact has
24 suffered aggravated animal abuse, or that any person with whom the veterinarian **or public or**
25 **private official** has come in contact has committed aggravated animal abuse, shall immediately re-
26 port the suspected aggravated animal abuse in the manner prescribed in subsection (2) of this sec-
27 tion.

28 (2) A report of suspected aggravated animal abuse required under subsection (1) of this section
29 shall be made to a law enforcement agency, either orally or in writing, and shall include, if known:

30 (a) The name and description of each animal involved;

31 (b) The address and telephone number of the owner or other person responsible for the care of

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted.
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 the animal;

2 (c) The nature and extent of the suspected aggravated animal abuse;

3 (d) Any evidence of previous aggravated animal abuse;

4 (e) Any explanation given for the suspected aggravated animal abuse; and

5 (f) Any other information that the person making the report believes may be helpful in estab-
6 lishing the cause of the suspected aggravated animal abuse or the identity of the person causing the
7 aggravated animal abuse.

8 **SECTION 3.** ORS 686.465 is amended to read:

9 686.465. A veterinarian **or public or private official** who acts in good faith and has reasonable
10 grounds for making a report of suspected aggravated animal abuse under ORS 686.455 is not liable
11 in any civil or criminal proceeding brought as a result of making the report.

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